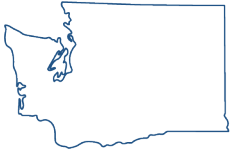


MARIA CANTWELL  
WASHINGTON



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

October 17, 2021

Nuria Fernandez  
Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration  
Federal Transit Administration  
East Building  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fernandez,

I am writing in support of Sound Transit's application for the I-405 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project to the Federal Transit Administration FY2022 Bus and Bus Facilities program. Grant funds will be used to procure up to 11 buses and construct the South Renton Transit Center Station.

I-405 is a primary commute and economic corridor in the Puget Sound region, running parallel to I-5 between King and Snohomish counties. The I-405 BRT project will connect communities along I-405 and SR 518 from Lynnwood to Burien. Sound Transit's submittal will request funding for the "S1" or south line of the I-405 BRT project which connects Bellevue, Renton, Tukwila and Burien in King County. The south line has five BRT stations, including a new South Renton Transit Center, providing access to local and regional bus service, connections to light rail at Tukwila and Bellevue, roadway bus priority treatments, and bicycle and pedestrian amenities.

Buses will travel in managed lanes to increase speed and reliability of service for underserved and overburdened communities. In addition to significantly reducing transit travel times from 26-34 minutes per day, the S1 line is also expected to reduce vehicle miles traveled and emissions along this heavily-congested corridor. Serving a community that is 57.9% minority, 20% low income, and 19% limited English proficiency, the S1 line will provide more efficient and reliable access to jobs, community amenities, and a range of opportunities in the region.

The project is part of the I-405 Master Plan, along with Sound Transit's long range plan and the Puget Sound Regional Council's adopted "Regional Transportation Plan". This project represents an important infrastructure investment that improves accessibility and mobility of people for the cities along the corridor in addition to other Puget Sound communities.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of Sound Transit's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator